



Gandhi

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

Human Rights Art Festival

Silver Spring, MD

April 23-25, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2010

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The first ever Amnesty International Human Rights Art Festival will be held throughout downtown Silver Spring, Maryland April 23-25, 2010. The festival will present over 400 artists and performers presenting more than 200 arts/advocacy events at 40 venues. All events will be free and open to the public. For the complete schedule of performances, exhibits and participating artists and organizations, please visit: www.humanrightsartfestival.com.

“Since the founding of Amnesty International, artists have played a powerful role in our fight for human rights,” said Larry Cox, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA. “This Art Festival will help us further our goals -- petitioning for the release of prisoners of conscience, ending violence against women and countering terror with justice.”

The springtime festival will include art exhibits, film, theater, dance, music, poetry, photography, digital arts and a sculpture garden as well as dozens of workshops, book readings, performance art, flash-mob dance, break-through yoga, and activities for children.

The festival was conceived by Silver Spring artist and writer Tom Block, a leading proponent of inspiring social transformation through the arts. He is organizing the event in cooperation with Amnesty International, local and national civic leaders, local businesses and developers. Television producer, social activist and philanthropist Norman Lear, Executive Producer of the festival, has provided valuable support for the event.

Founded in 1961, Amnesty International's purpose is to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied. The organization works to protect the human rights enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.